UNITED
NATIONS

ST

Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1997/84
29 September 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fourteenth session, Geneva, 8-18 December 1997, agenda item 2 (c))

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Other packaging and IBC matters

Testing requirements for infectious substances packaging

Transmitted by the Expert from the United States

Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to clarify the current puncture test criterion for infectious substances contained in 6.3.2.6 (a) and (b) of the UN Recommendations (10th Revised Edition).

Background

2. In the 5th revised edition of the Recommendations, the criterion for passing the puncture test for infectious substance packagings read as follows:

"There should be no leakage from the inner packagings."

3. Based on a proposal by the expert from the UK in ST/SG/AC.10/C.2/R.637, the criterion in the 6th revised edition Recommendations was revised to read:

> "Following each impact, penetration of the secondary packaging is acceptable provided there is no leakage from the primary receptacle(s)."

Unfortunately, there is no record of the reasoning for the introduction of the change.

4. This wording is not clear in relation to packaging tests where the secondary packaging remains intact, particularly whether it is acceptable for the primary to fail in such an instance.

5. The expert from the United States believes that the criterion for the puncture test should be consistent with the criteria for the drop test. Namely, there should be no leakage from the primary receptacle(s).

Proposal

6. The expert from the United States, therefore, proposes the following revision to the last sentence in 6.3.2.6 (b) of the Recommendations:

> *"Following each impact, there must be no leakage from the primary receptacle(s)."*